

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1337

13 July 1995

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, HIS EXCELLENCY FIDEL V. RAMOS, CONCERNING THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

I have the honour to furnish you herewith a copy of the statement of the President of the Philippines, H.E. Fidel V. Ramos, concerning the decision of the Government of France to resume nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

I would appreciate it if the President's statement could be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

**STATEMENT OF H.E. PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS
ON THE FRENCH DECISION TO RESUME
NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC**

Manila, 21 June 1995

I wish to inform you that I have written personally to His Excellency Jacques Chirac, the President of the Republic of France, conveying to him the deep concern of the Philippine Government over the decision of his government to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

I conveyed to the French President the Philippine view that a resumption of nuclear testing is inimical to the promotion of the kind of international climate we need in order to promote further nuclear arms control and disarmament. I reiterated the support of the Philippines for the eventual conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty.

Our Department of Foreign Affairs also conveyed a diplomatic note to the French Embassy, and to the French Government through the Philippine Embassy in Paris, on the same subject. The note protested the French decision on the resumption of testing.

We sincerely hope that the government and people of France will reflect carefully on the concern and sentiments that have been so clearly expressed by the members of the international community, and most especially by our friends in the South Pacific who will be most directly affected by any hazardous consequences of nuclear testing.

At this point let me stress that the Philippines and France have traditionally enjoyed good relations in many fields. We will continue developing this relationship, which has proven to be mutually beneficial, and which has the potential for even greater growth and diversification in the years ahead. It was precisely the intention of my visit to France last year to deepen and broaden our bilateral ties, considering that we have a great deal of interest in both countries to bring Europe and Asia closer together through our mutual interaction.

At the same time, we are dismayed at this decision of the French Government, which has tremendous implications upon both international and regional security and stability. As a friend of France in the Asia-Pacific, the Philippines calls on the French government to recognize its responsibilities in a global context by seriously and immediately reconsidering its decision.

- - - - -